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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14549

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT UR
SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TAKES ON LITERATURNAYA GAZETA

REF: MOSCOW 10698

1. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT VLADIMIR ALKREKHT, SECRETARY OF THE SOVIET CHAPTER OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, HAS BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. ALBREKHT REPORTEDLY WENT TO COURT ON SEPTEMBER 13 AND ACCUSED LITERATURNAYA GAZETA OF DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 1. (THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION, ENTITLED "IT HAPPENED IN LEUWALDEN," REFERS TO THE ". . .WELL-KNOWN ANTI-SOVIET ORGANIZATION AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. . .")

2. SOMEWHAT TO ALBREKHT'S SURPRISE, THE COURT AGREED TO HEAR THE CASE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOVIET LEGAL PRACTICE, ALBREKHT AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF LITERATURNAYA GAZETA WILL BE HEARD BY A JUDGE IN AN ATTEMPT TO COMPOSE THEIR DIFFERENCES. THE HEARING SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

3. ALBREKHT ASSUMES THAT THE WILLINGNESS OF THE COURT TO HEAR HIS CASE STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT BOTH THE JUDGE AND THE DEFENDENT ARE THE SAME AS IN THE ALFRED FRIENDLY DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER CASE (REFTEL). WE GATHER THAT ALBREKHT FEELS THAT A PRECEDENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND
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THE COURT FOUND IT EASIER TO ACCEPT HIS CASE. HE IS

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UNDER NO ILLUSIONS HE CAN WIN A CASE AGAINST THE SOVIET
LITERARY WEEKLY, BUT IS REPORTEDLY EXTREMELY HEARTENED
THAT THE COURT DECLARED ITSELF COMPETENT TO HEAR THE CASE.

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